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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the President of the Council on consultations with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 2013/43, the Economic and Social Council requested the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact with the Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on the matters considered in that resolution and to report thereon to the Council.

2. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 68/89, the General Assembly requested that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories. In the same resolution, the Assembly commended the Council for its debate and its resolution on the question and requested that the Council continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the Assembly.

3. The following 17 Territories are under the purview of the Special Committee: American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas),[1] French Polynesia, Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara. Information submitted in response to a request to the specialized agencies and the international organizations associated with the United Nations to provide an account of their activities in relation to Non-Self-Governing Territories is set out below.

II. Support provided to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international organizations associated with the United Nations

4. According to the information received, during the period under review, several specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continued to provide support to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories pursuant to the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Special Committee.

A. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

5. In the Pacific region, representatives from American Samoa, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia and Tokelau in September 2013 participated in two workshops held in Nadi, Fiji: a regional workshop on the review of the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Secretariat of the Pacific

[1] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (see ST/CS/SER.A/42).

Community, and an FAO regional planning workshop on pesticides management for the Pacific.

6. In 2013, consultations continued between FAO and the Tokelau territorial Government on the implementation of the FAO country programming framework for 2013-2017. The Organization's first project with Tokelau will be funded under the FAO technical cooperation programme and will focus on inshore sustainable land management planning.

7. Tokelau participated in the following regional meetings: the tenth FAO South-West Pacific Ministers for Agriculture Meeting, held in Apia in April 2013; the Pacific islands workshop to raise awareness of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, held in Suva in July 2013; and the regional workshop financed by the European Development Fund on behalf of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States on port State measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, held in Nadi in September 2013.

B. International Labour Organization

8. The Non-Self-Governing Territories benefit from the technical advisory and information services provided by the International Labour Organization (ILO) to strengthen their capacity to promote decent work (i.e. rights at work, employment, social protection and social dialogue) in different sectors of the economy and their societies as a whole. Some of the Territories concerned participate frequently in ILO-sponsored regional meetings and seminars under the ILO decent work agenda.

9. With regard to the Caribbean, the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean, located in Port of Spain, carried out a number of activities in 2013. For instance, delegations from Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands participated in the eighth ILO meeting of Caribbean Labour Ministers, held in Port of Spain in July. The conclusions adopted by the Ministers included commitments to meet more regularly to address issues that confront labour at the national, regional and international levels, to employ better information and communications technology for facilitating consultations, to enhance collaboration on a continuing basis and to work more closely with ILO to achieve a number of specific goals, including strengthening social dialogue. Furthermore, in the latter part of 2013, ILO provided technical support for the review of labour legislation in Anguilla and the drafting of a new labour code.

10. With respect to awareness-raising, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building, in December 2013, ILO facilitated the participation of two officials of the Ministry of Labour of the British Virgin Islands in a study in Port of Spain. The tour included visits to the Industrial Court of Trinidad and Tobago and the Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development. In February 2014, as a follow-up to the study tour, two high-ranking officials of the Industrial Court undertook a mission to the British Virgin Islands with ILO support. The tour and follow-up mission were aimed at providing support to the Government of the British Virgin Islands in the area of administration of the Arbitration Tribunal and Board of Enquiry.

11. Representatives of the National Employers Association in Anguilla benefited from a workshop convened by ILO in March 2013 on the role of labour standards in accessing international markets and supporting the Caribbean single market. The capacity-building workshop was geared towards providing employer organizations and their members with a better understanding of international labour standards and the compliance levels expected in relation to those norms so that they could better support the single market approach adopted in the Caribbean.

C. United Nations Children's Fund

12. In the Latin American and Caribbean region, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) undertook work in 2013 with the territorial Governments of Anguilla, Montserrat, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the British Virgin Islands through its multi-country programme action plan (2012-2016). The aim was to contribute to the realization of children's rights by fostering an enabling and protective environment in those Non-Self-Governing Territories. UNICEF-supported programmes are fully aligned with existing policy frameworks in both the Territories and such subregional bodies as the Caribbean Community and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States.

13. Thematically, UNICEF support included capacity-building for developing juvenile justice information systems; developing subregional guidelines for children in alternative care; capacity-building for responding to child protection needs in humanitarian situations; and technical support for child abuse awareness and prevention.

14. In the Asia and Pacific region, UNICEF extended its support to the Pacific immunization programme strengthening meeting, held in Nadi in November 2013. The meeting brought together key partners from all Pacific island countries and territories to review immunization coverage and progress towards agreed global and regional goals, with New Caledonia sending two health workers to the meeting. In support of the programme, UNICEF worked closely with the World Health Organization, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Australian Agency for International Development, the New Zealand Aid Programme and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

D. United Nations Environment Programme

15. For the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), capacity-building and technology support continue to be central elements of its work, carried out in line with country priorities, as well as priorities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, as relevant. Within its 2014-2015 programme of work, UNEP organizes its efforts around several subprogrammes, such as climate change, disasters and conflict, ecosystem management, environmental governance, chemicals and waste and resource efficiency.

16. Consistent with its enhanced 2013 mandate and taking into account the specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, UNEP is poised, upon request, to strengthen the implementation of its distinctive role in environmental leadership by catalysing and promoting international

cooperation and action in key areas by providing early warning and policy advice based on sound science; working with the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements to help implement the related objectives and commitments; and delivering technology support and capacity-building services.

E. World Food Programme

17. The World Food Programme (WFP) does not carry out programmes of assistance in any of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, but does support refugees from Western Sahara in Algeria.

18. WFP operations support the refugees in five camps located in the Sahara near the Algerian border with Mauritania. WFP uses a planning figure of 90,000 rations targeting the most vulnerable refugees through general food distribution. In order to address problems of chronic malnutrition and anaemia, 35,000 additional supplementary general food rations are being furnished. An estimated 60 per cent of rations are provided to women and girls. More than 2,000 tons of mixed commodities are distributed each month.

19. As the desert environment supports limited livestock and minimal vegetable cultivation, the refugees rely almost entirely on humanitarian assistance from the international community. There are few opportunities for self-reliance activities for the refugees in the camps.